

Gulf of Maine

Coastal Program

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Olympia J. Snowe (R-ME)
Senator Susan M. Collins (R-ME)
1st and 2nd Congressional Districts

Senator Robert C. Smith (R-NH)
Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH)
1st and 2nd Congressional Districts

Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-MA)
Senator John F. Kerry (D-MA)
6th, 7th, 8th and 10th districts

Contact

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Purpose

The Gulf of Maine Coastal Program was established as part of a nation-wide network of Service Coastal Program offices to protect coastal fish and wildlife habitat through partnerships. Work is guided by the following laws and legislative authorities:

Clean Water Act

Coastal Barrier Improvement Act

Coastal Wetland Planning, Protection and Restoration Act

Endangered Species Act

Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act

Oil Pollution Act

Management Activities

- Identify and map important fish and wildlife habitat
- Develop working partnerships with other federal and state agencies, statewide conservation groups, local land trusts and watershed associations, industry representatives, and willing landowners
- Work with partners to permanently protect high-value habitat through fee and easement acquisition
- Work with partners to restore habitat on coastal nesting islands,

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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<http://www.fws.gov>

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Puffin with fish

Linda Welch/USFWS

Highlights

- Permanently protected more than 1,670,000 acres of high-value fish and wildlife habitat through fee and easement acquisition, including 48 nesting islands, 175 coastal wetlands and associated upland buffer sites, 18 uplands, and 64 areas adjacent to wild Atlantic salmon rivers
- Restored more than 6,500 acres of habitat for migratory birds, including 77 coastal wetlands, 6 grasslands and 12 seabird nesting islands
- Completed 67 river restoration projects to benefit sea-run fish, including 9 dam removals, 1 dam breaching and 1 dam lowering, 13 fishway repairs or installations, and many other erosion control and culvert installation projects
- Leveraged \$64.3 million in federal project funds and \$126.4 million in non-federal funds for habitat protection and restoration activities

Issues

Statewide, development pressures destroy, fragment and/or diminish habitat values for fish, wildlife and people.

Dams and other barriers to fish passage, current or historical loss of riparian buffers, and pollution degrade river habitat and prevent passage for sea-run fish.

Undersized culverts, man-made ditches and invasive plants in coastal marshes minimize habitat values for fish and waterbirds.

The number of Atlantic salmon in Maine rivers remains precariously low.

